

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CPR-01 SSC-01 /077 W
-----260540Z 118742 /17

R 251120Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2385
INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2840

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, AF, JA, CZ, CH
SUBJECT: NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADORS

REF: A) KABUL 2380 (NOTAL B) KABUL 2427 (NOTAL) C) KABUL 2530
(NOTAL) D) KABUL 2606 (NOTAL)

1. KABUL MEDIA HAVE ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF MAJOR AFGHAN AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. KABUL TIMES (KT), APRIL 23 CONFIRMED THAT AGREEMENT FOR DR. MOHAMMAD HASSAN SHARQ AS AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN HAD BEEN RECEIVED (REF A). THE SAME ISSUE OF KT ANNOUNCED THE RECEIPT OF AGREEMENT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. MOHAMMAD RAHIN SHERZOI AS AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. KT ON APRIL 21 REPORTED RECEIPT OF AGREEMENT FOR DR. ABDUL WAHID KARIM, CURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO, AS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES. RADIO AFGHANISTAN APRIL 19 ANNOUNCED THAT AGREEMENT FOR AMBASSADOR ABDULLAH MALIKYAR, CURRENTLY AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, AS AMBASSADOR TO IRAN (REF B) AND FOR DR. MOHAMMAD YASIN AZIM AS AMBASSADOR TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS ALSO BEEN RECEIVED.

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2. FOR PRAGUE: FOLLOWING IS BRIEF BIO ON THE NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADOR RAHIM SHERZOI. HE IS IN HIS MID TO LATE FORTIES, AND IS A MEMBER OF THE INFLUENTIAL MOHAMMADZAI CLAN WHICH HAS FOR LONG DOMINATED AFGHAN POLITICS AND OFFICIAL LIFE. HE WAS EDUCATED IN KABUL, AS WELL AS IN FRANCE, AND REPORTEDLY OBTAINED A PHD WHILE STATIONED IN WARSAW. HE MOST RECENTLY SERVED FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS AS CHARGE IN ISLAMABAD, DURING A PERIOD OF TENSION BETWEEN

AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN WHEN THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT DELAYED SENDING AN AMBASSADOR TO ISLAMABAD. (SHERZOI LEFT HIS POST WHEN AN AMBASSADOR WAS AT LAST NAMED IN OCTOBER OF 1976.) SHERZOI HAS A FAMILY CONNECTION WITH WAHEED ABDULLAH, THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER (OFFICIALLY "MINISTER IN CHARGE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS"), IN THAT ONE OF ABDULLAH'S UNCLES IS MARRIED TO SHERZOI'S SISTER. THE NEW AMBASSADOR SPEAKS FRENCH, AND HIS ENGLISH IS GOOD AND IMPROVING. IN GENERAL, WE FEEL THAT SHERZOI WILL BE A PLEASANT AND PERHAPS A HELPFUL DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE.

3. FOR USLO PEKING. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF BIO ON AMBASSADOR AZIM. BORN IN 1928, AZIM WAS EDUCATED AT KABUL UNIVERSITY AND IN THE UNITED STATES, WHERE HE RECEIVED A PHD IN ZOOLOGY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING IN 1961. HIS CAREER HAS BEEN IN ACADEME, BUT HE HAS EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE FROM HAVING SERVED AS DEPUTY MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION BEFORE THE 1973 COUP. HE REPORTEDMYIIS PERSONABLE, OUTGOING, AND FRIENDLY, AND SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. IN OUR VIEW, HIS YEARS SPENT IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD PROBABLY MAKE HIM A CLOSE AND HELPFUL COLLEAGUE IN PEKING.

4. COMMENT. WE HAVE HEARD NO SPECIFIC INTERPRETATIONS WHY THIS SPATE OF AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS HAS OCCURRED AT THIS TIME, NOR (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SHARQ ASSIGNMENT TO TOKYO) DO WE PERCEIVE ANY GENERALLY SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS IN THESE ASSIGNMENTS. IN ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, IT SEEMS PLAUSIBLE TO US THAT ONE OR TWO "TIMELY" TRANSFERS OR RETIREMENTS CREATED THIS CHAIN REACTION. "TIMELY" IN THIS CONTEXT MIGHT COVER AMBASSADOR GHAZI'S REMOVAL FROM TEHRAN FOR "IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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GROUP" POLITICAL REASONS (REF C). IT IS WORTH NOTING ALSO THAT AMBASSADOR AZIM'S APPOINTMENT MARKS ONE MORE HIGH-RANKING POSITION RECENTLY FILLED BY SOMEONE WHO WAS PROMINENT IN THE PRE-DAOUD GOVERNMENT. (TWO OTHER SENIOR JUDGES, IN RELATIVE LIMGO SINCE JULY 1973, HAVE JUST BEEN NAMED TO THE HIGH JUDICIARY COUNCIL (REF D.)). ELIOT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KABUL02840
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770144-0722
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770424/aaaaatwz.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 313c969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KABUL 2380, 77 KABUL 2427, 77 KABUL 2530
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2707702
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW AFGHAN AMBASSADORS
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, AF, JA, CZ, CH, (SHERZOI, MOHAMMAD RAHIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/313c969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009